Anthony Blunt's mother was Hilda Master. She was the daughter of a magistrate in the Indian Colonial Service. She married beneath herself to a poor Anglican Priest named Stanley Blunt, who achieved his role through zealous preaching and his ability to blind and deceive others – a talent much valued by spying, double-handed, sly-rooting monarchies.

Three-and-a-half years before his coronation, the future King George V had an ongoing ‘sex-for-dress’ exchange programme with Hilda Master. The sponsor was his wife Mary of Teck, (daughter of ‘Fat Mary’) and future Queen of England (m. 6 July 1893).  

Mary of Teck would have dresses made for A-List occasions. She couldn’t be seen wearing them twice so she gave them away. King George V would do the giving away in exchange for sex. One of the recipients of the future Queen-consort Mary’s dresses and King George V’s armours was Hilda Masters and, after many A-List occasions and many dresses, they conceived a child together.

He was 41 at the time and his wife didn’t particularly mind. Sex for them was a matter of facing ugliness and dim-wittedness, only since found in the realm of Boy Scout masters.

During one of these sex-for-dress exchange programmes, the Prince of Wales from 9 November 1901, the Vice Admiral of the Royal Navy from 1903, the sailor prince and future King George V showed Hilda Master his large blue and red dragon tattooed on his right arm. They then conceived an illegitimate son a fortnight before the Christmas of 1906. The illegitimate child’s name was Anthony Blunt (26 September 1907–26 March 1983) and he was to become a royal spy.

Anthony was gay, as is so common with those who grow up without their biological father. His housefather was penniless, a religious replacement in denial, and none too bright. It was virtually impossible for them to bond.

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1 Mary of Teck (Victoria Mary Augusta Louise Olga Pauline Claudine Agnes) was previously engage to her husband’s brother, the Duke of Clarence, but “he died six weeks after the engagement from a mysterious illness” . . . “pneumonia”.